



HEY!!

is anybody out there contemplating going into the windy city, CHICAGO, for a long weekend or even just overnight?

We would like to suggest a place to stay..... Chosen from the guesthouse pages of the L. C. "LE MS" B & B is located uptown just west of Lakeshore

Drive in the Montrose-Ashland Street area where "brownstone" apartment houses are located on the same block as one family homes.

"LE MS" has three rooms available. Two of the rooms are on the second floor and share a bath. The third room is on the third floor and has its own bath and kitchen facilities.

Our hostess, Catherine, (Kay), gave us a grand tour of the house. It is wonderfully decorated, with many antiques. We also met her two dogs, a rottweiler and a poodle. Kay's partner, Leslie was out of town when we arrived, but we met her the next day as we were leaving.

After we got settled into our room, we went for a walk to get a bit of lunch and also to explore our surroundings. This area is full of ethnic restaurants, churches, and small family owned businesses. The different architectural designs of the houses and churches in the neighborhood made for an interesting walk.

We had a wonderful time and plan on returning.

"LE MS" can be reached by telephone 773-769-5151

**THE OPEN ARMS STAFF
WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL OUR
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THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
AND THE COMING NEW
YEAR**



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SATURDAYS 7:00 P.M. ET**



GIRLZ 'N THE SNOW

February 5, 6, 7, 8, 1998

Women's Winter Weekend at Copper Mountain Resort, Colorado all proceeds to benefit The National Center for Lesbian Rights Skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, parties, dining, dancing, live entertainment (inc. Suzanne Westenhoefer) are just part of the events planned for the 4-day weekend. Register early as space is limited. Early bird registration closes Dec. 15 CALL 303-433-9234 FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE

December 7, 7:00 p.m. there will be a benefit for United Sexualities, (a social, support, education, and advocacy organization for GLBT's) featuring some of Fort Wayne's best female impersonators including, Tula. all proceeds benefit United Sexualities. Tickets \$5.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door. To be held at Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne, Walb Memorial Union Building, in the Ball Room

OPEN ARMS IS PUBLISHED AND RUN BY A VOLUNTEER STAFF. WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL WIMMIN TO HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS TO DEVOTE JUST ONCE A MONTH, PLEASE CONTACT US BY PHONE OR E-MAIL.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for the January newsletter is Dec. 15th. Submissions received after Dec. 15th may not be published in the January newsletter. Mail submissions to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN or give to any staff member. There will be a newsletter meeting Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. For more information call or e-mail any staff member.....

E-mail address	mdills@juno.com
E-mail address	suze3@juno.com
Kaye & Marcia.....	219-271-0338
Suze.....	219-254-8676 (beeper)

The National Women's Festival is moving to Ball State University and will be held June 25-28. This will be 1 1/2 to 2 hours closer for us in the north. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive future mailings, write NWMF. P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN. 46205-1427
e-mail: wiz@indy.net or check them out on the net at <http://www.a1.com/wia>
If you've never been to this festival, it's a must do thing
.....staff

community events

"SINGLED OUT" singles group

We are really having good times. Hope you will join us for the next event... Although these activities are being planned with single womyn in mind, no one is excluded and everyone is welcome.....Any questions??? call Janine at 219-259-5111 or Debbie at 616-687-9535

The potluck was great fun and great food. The movies were good too! We watched "Sirens", "When Night is Falling", and a Suzanne Westenhofers comedy tape. The movies were rented from **Morris Video on US 31 North**. They have lots of Lesbian and Gay movies for anyone who's interested.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, December 14, Bowling at Chippewa Lanes 3:00pm the cost of this outing should be less than \$6.00 per person. Hope to see you there!!

3rd Friday Out,
call Lori/Sherrill (616-684-6913)

If you get the answering machine, please leave a phone # so that we can confirm location and time

Saturday, December 6.....Mountain Moving Coffee-house...1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Andersonville, Illinois (773)-973-9934

16th Mid-Winter Crafts Festival.....11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Celebrate the annual festival with artisans and merchants from all over the country. There will be a table for free stuff, bring what you would like to share. Come to shop, browse, eat chili and cornbread.

Wednesday, December 31.....8:00 to 1:00a.m.....Women in the Arts is having a New Year's Eve Party and dance at the Garrison, 6002 N. Post Road, Indianapolis. Cost is \$20.00 in advance, \$22. at the door. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. For More Info...WIA, P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN. 46206 or call 317 927-9355 voice mail, e-mail wia@indy.net Home page <http://www.a1.com.wia>

Wednesday, December 31 9:00 to 1a.m.....the Up The Stairs Community Center presents "Puttin' On The Ritz"...7th Annual New Year's Eve Gayla Event at The Lantern 4420 Aardmore Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN. \$15. per person in advance..\$18.00 at the door....for more info . 219-744-1199 ..UTSCC, 3426 Broadway, Fort Wayne, IN. 46807. e-mail rainbow@centrainet.net or <http://user.centrainet.net/rainbow>

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY. 7-9 P.M. FOR INFO: WRITE TO LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center

C.A.R.E.S Building, Lower Level

629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001

voice mail: (616) 349-4234

Want to support this community center??

Please volunteer your time to help staff the office, donate materials such as office supplies and equipment, donate books, magazines and educational videos, get the word out to friends and send a check to help support office expenses.

Every Sunday Morning 9:30 A.MA Wimmins' Group meets for breakfast at Theo & Stacy's 4311 S. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, MI.....open to all wimmin

Lesbian Growth & Support Group meets Monday nights 7-8:30 pm, Fort Wayne Woman's Bureau at 303 E. Washington, Fort Wayne. For More Information.....219-424-7977 and also in Fort Wayne...Gay/Lesbian Helpline 219-744-1199 Mon-Thur, 7-10pm, Fri-Sat, 7-Midnight, Sun, 8-9pm

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

Meetings are from 2 to 4 p.m. the fourth Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cleveland Road, South Bend. Info...Nancy Mascotte 219-277-2684 or write P.O. Box 4195, South Bend, 46634-4195

Switchboard Concern of Elkhart needs names and phone numbers of women as contacts for them to call when they have a caller who would like to talk to a gay female. The contacts' names and phone #'s are never given out to callers, but rather the contact is called and given the name and phone number of the caller. If you are interested in helping, please call Pat Barber at 219-294-3549

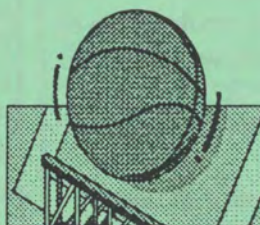
SAPPHOS NETWORK

A support/study/social group for North Central Indiana, P.O. Box 118, Kewanna, IN 46939-0118 (219) 595-7542

N.D. BASKETBALL

Dec. 6, vs. Connecticut.....2:00 p.m.
Dec. 10, vs Purdue.....7:00 p.m.
Dec. 13, vs South Florida.....2:00 p.m.
Dec. 28, vs San Francisco.....2:00 p.m.

Jan. 8, vs Miami.....7:00 p.m.
Jan. 14, vs West Virginia.....7:00 p.m.
Jan. 24, vs Providence.....2:00 p.m.
Jan. 31, vs Seton Hall.....2:00 p.m.



THANKSGIVING

by Lee Lynch

I am learning to enjoy what I have. To take the time to relish my life and feel gratitude for how I live and who I am.

There are no anti-gay lawn signs here despite an upcoming election. When we moved this year we didn't do it willy-nilly. We sought someplace nurturing and it wasn't going to be another town where I was very nervous sporting a Clinton-Gore bumper sticker on my Ford.

I share our new home with the lover who's perfect for me. I'm not perfect, she's not perfect, but our imperfections seem to fit well together.

The house isn't exactly perfect either. It's over fifty years old and boasts electrical outlets with no juice, two-foot closets and a basement that seeps not only heavy rain, but heavy fog. The piece de resistance is the big old wood furnace that belches smoke and heats only the first floor.

Yet if I look to my left the window frames a river. I've been watching an Egret wade along the bank on its stilt-like legs with a Mallard couple dogging – or ducking – its steps.

I'm always aware how good it is to be alive to enjoy these things. Roxy Ellis and Michelle Abdill were murdered almost two years ago in Oregon. I don't open a gay paper without reading about the murders of gay men.

I have a job. It's wobbly right now, but I work for a boss who doesn't lay off at the drop of an account. I'm not, at the moment, on an unemployment line although I've been there too.

I could try to support myself writing, but I couldn't pay the mortgage. Still, I work with a book publisher, a magazine publisher and scads of newspaper publishers. Hot diggety dog. How many people get to realize their dreams?

There's something else I'm grateful for. Growing older.

The past few years have been tough for me. I've learned that not only am I not seventeen any more, I'm well past thirty! Not for the first time, I worked myself sick trying to support my writing. As a consequence I lost my confidence. I had some health problems. One of my symptoms was fear of travel. As symptoms go, it could have been a lot worse.

All I have to do to stay well is sleep at least eight hours a night. I have to listen to my body when it tells me I'm carrying too much fire wood. I can't work at my job until 2 AM to give myself time to write the next day. With less available time, I've given up work I believe in, like reviewing lesbian books. It takes a little prodding to remind myself to be grateful that I can still write two days a week.

I'm also grateful for aging when I consider the alternative. This is good that I've made it to my fifties and I'm learning to act my age.

My cousin was a welfare mom. She saw the writing on the wall and got off a few years ago. Her health problems are a lot worse than mine partly because she's got so little money, and she's got this child to raise. I can't imagine. This past year, she was able to leave her physically demanding job for a higher-paying, less stressful position that lets her spend more time with her daughter. Another dream come true!

I was able to see her a few weeks ago, always a joy because she's an amazingly cheerful person. And I saw her because I flew cross country. I did it!

In the airport limo coming home, the driver told me how glad she and her husband were, when they moved here, to find a huge gay community. They wanted diversity for themselves and their kids. That's my kind of homecoming.

As if my blessings weren't piled high enough, our best friends are moving to their dream home nearby and have invited us to Thanksgiving dinner. I'm one lucky dyke. My dreams are of good fortune for all of us.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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COURT OF FRIENDS

Okay, all you singles! Looking for that special someone? Here is your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you and what you are seeking in another. Open Arms will run your ad for 2-3 months. You can resubmit/or cancel at any time.

Open Arms reserves the right to edit for length and/or content any letters submitted for publication.

Send your ad to:

The Court of Friends, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546
You will be assigned an ID number. Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue (depending upon when we receive your information). Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by enclosing their reply in a stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in pencil on the front of the envelope. Place your reply into another envelope and mail to the Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#71 Do you like taking walks and watching the beautiful fall leaves drift to the ground or the soft snowflakes falling silently to your lips?

Do you like laying on your back and watching the stars twinkling above or watching the clouds pass you by?

Do you like being held while watching a movie or just talking?

Would you like a 34 year young GWF who's not a beauty queen, who doesn't have a body of a model, who smokes, drinks occasionally, and has one child?

Would you like a new friend or love? Write me.....

#72 Good day ladies.

I am a feminine GWF, 25 years of age, and new to this area.

I am placing this ad to meet people that would like to converse and introduce me to my new surroundings. I treat people with respect and honor and expect the same in return. If any individuals would like to be treated well, have fun, and want to laugh like never before, please do contact me.

I do not discriminate against age, all please apply.

Since it is winter time, I enjoy many winter activities such as sledding, ice skating, skiing and hockey. Not to mention, I make great hot chocolate to warm up with.

In addition: I enjoy painting, sketching, writing poetry, cooking, watching classic movies, live theater and most important, spending time with friends and (HOPEFULLY) a mate.

Thank you and enjoy your Holidays.

Kind regards.

HEALTH BEAT



NEW X-RAY METHOD FOR BREAST IMAGING

Early tests of a new x-ray method suggest the technique can deliver sharper, more detailed images of breast tissue than current mammography.

Scientists say the defraction-enhanced imaging (DEI) method can produce sharply defined images unavailable via conventional x-ray methods.

Dr. Etta Pisano, associate professor of radiology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill says standard x-ray mammography often presents interpretation problems because of the lack of contrast, and differences between healthy and cancerous tissues are sometimes difficult to detect when image contrast is low.

In DEI, a single-energy fan beam of x-rays is used instead of the broad energy beam of conventional radiology. Since every object has unique defraction properties, preliminary studies of cancerous breast tissue show that DEI will help identify how the object looks and what it is made of.

According to Dr. Pisano, DEI may be available clinically within 10 years. She says its use in mammography may expose women to less radiation and may not require breast compression during the exam.

(Reuters Health Information Services on the Web)

from the South Bend Tribune

Seattle-based Advanced Technology Laboratories offers an ultrasound exam; HDI (high-definition imaging), that may reduce by 40% the 700,000 breast biopsies performed every year. Some 182,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed every year after a biopsy, while hundreds of thousands of other biopsies discover benign growths. Doctors want to cut the number of unnecessary biopsies to save women who have suspicious lesions anxiety, pain and money. A biopsy, an outpatient surgical procedure costs \$2500, while an ultrasound costs \$75 to \$300.



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IN THE NEWS



IN MEMORY

Author Valerie Taylor died in her sleep on October 22, in Tucson, AZ. She was 84 years old. Born September 7, 1913 in Aurora, IL, she was the author of such classics from the 60's as *Journey to Fulfillment*, *Return to Lesbos*, *Return to Lesbos, Unlike Others*, *Whisper Their Love* and *A World Without Men*.

More recent books include *Love Image*, *Prism*, *Ripening*, and *Rice and Beans*. *Two Women Revisited* includes the work of Valerie Taylor and Jeannette H. Foster; however much of her poetry is still unpublished.

Her writing appears in numerous anthologies including, *Intricate Passions* and *The Poetry of Sex: Lesbians Write the Erotic*.

She was a co-founder of the Chicago Lesbian Writers' Conference and was interviewed by Studs Terkel in "*Coming of Age*". A terrific cook, she has been referred to as everyone's favorite lesbian grandmother. An activist for peace and justice, for many years she did public speaking as a gay Gray Panther.

A memorial service was held Nov. 8th in Tucson and another service is planned for Chicago. via e-mail forwarded from Tee A. Corinne, by Lee Lynch

#####

Received from the Victory Fund.....

In an unprecedented 83% win rate, 10 of the Fund's 15 openly gay candidates won their November races and 3 more advanced to run-off elections.

Victory Fund Executive Director Brian K. Bond says, "This phenomenal success rate is a tribute to the quality of our candidates and their campaigns. One of the Victory Fund's main goals is to elect an openly gay official in every state by the year 2000." Openly gay elected officials currently serve in 26 of the 50 states.

In addition to providing immediate support for qualified gay and lesbian candidates, the Victory Fund is working with a cadre of 1998 candidates including Wisconsin State Rep., Tammy Baldwin, running for the state's 2nd District seat; San Diego City Council member, Chris Kehoe, running for California's 49th District seat and retired Army Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer is researching a run for Washington's 2nd District seat.

The Victory Fund is the only national organization whose sole mission is to increase the number of qualified openly gay and lesbian public officials. To date the Fund has generated almost \$1.6 million for these candidates

For more information please contact Kathleen DeBold at 202-842-8679 or victoryf@aol.com (e-mail)

CANDLE LIT

I light a candle each night
praying the light will reach
through & break your world of pain

I hold your shirt close to my heart
praying Love will reach
through & break your heart of fear

I close my eyes missing you
praying Life will reach
through & break your tight, tired arms

I cry the night
the rain weeps
the thunder aches
Mother Nature beat my heart
for I can not

YOU'RE GONE

Lindalee M. T. Blake (un)



LOVING SOMEONE GAY 20th Anniversary Edition

For nearly three decades Don Clark, Ph.D. has offered compassionate and perceptive guidance to gays and lesbians and the people who love them. His sensitive approach and humorous wisdom have helped families, friends and community members build solid, loving relationships. *Loving Someone Gay* is presented in four parts....Part 1: Being Gay, includes information on the possible consequences of the all too familiar oppression and pressures to conform.

Part 2: Gay & Growing, how to grow and be a better gay person while unlearning and relearning in the areas of emotions, pride, prejudice, and relationships.

Part 3: Loving Someone Gay, wise advice to parents, family and friends, includes the topics of truth, acceptance, communication and appreciation.

Part 4: Professional Help, advice to a wide variety of professional who come in contact with gay clients.

This is the third revision of this book (the first was written in 1977) and it speaks clearly and directly to the individual as well as the global community calling for practical, spiritual and political awareness.

Don Clark Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and he currently resides with his partner and practices in San Francisco.....Now Available from Celestial Arts News , Ten Speed Press, P.O. Box 7123, Berkley CA. 94707 Phone 510-559-1600, Fax: 510-524-4588 Orders: 800-841-2665.....\$12.95

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I am looking for a trailer, house or apartment to rent located anywhere South of South Bend to Plymouth, that will allow a dog. If you know of any place, please call an Open Arms staff member and leave your name & telephone number





December

1997

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	1 Happy B-Day LIZ W 	2  BEST WISHES TO VIVIAN	3 B-Day wishes to KIM W. 	4	5  JACKIE N.'s BIRTHDAY	6  N.D. vs. Connecticut 2:00 p.m.
7	8	9	10  N.D. vs. PURDUE 7:00 p.m.	11	12 Best Wishes to KELLY 	13  N.D. vs. South Florida 2:00 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19  B-day Wishes to LISA H. & CHRISTINE L.	20
21	22	23	24  HANUKAH	25 Christmas 	26	27  CAROL S. Happy- Birthday
28  N.D. vs. San Francisco 2:00 p.m.	29	30	31  Andrea N.'s BIRTHDAY	Happy New Year 		